

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL SELF-HELP FUND

SUMMARY: MISSION PROPOSES THAT S/NM ALLOCATE TOTAL \$50,000 FROM FY-76 CINCC BUDGET ESTABLISH NARCOTICS SELF-HELP FUND FOR COLOMBIA. FUND WOULD BE USED SUPPORT PRIVATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS MOUNT DRUG EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS. FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES WOULD BE LIMITED TO MAXIMUM \$10,000, WITH MATCHING CONTRIBUTION FROM GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY. SELF-HELP WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE SUPPLEMENT REGULAR, ON-GOING CINCC NARCOTICS PROGRAM ASSISTANCE. PURPOSE OF SELF-HELP FUND WOULD BE TO HELP BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING BILATERAL USG-GOC COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. ACTION REQUESTED; LAINCC REACTIONS AND APPROVAL THIS REQUEST.

1. MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LAINCC GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISHMENT MODEST NARCOTICS SELF-HELP FUND FOR COLOMBIA. FUND WOULD BE AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY EFFORTS COPE WITH GROWING PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG COLOMBIAN YOUTH AS

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POINTED-UP BY RECENT MINHEALTH SURVEYS. IT WOULD ALSO

REINFORCE AND PUBLICIZE COMMON US-COLOMBIAN INTEREST IN CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING, AND HELP BUILD INFORMED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

2. LOCAL GROUPINGS WORKING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM ALREADY EXIST IN CALI, MEDELLIN BARRANQUILLA BOGOTA AND BUCARAMANGA, AND ARE BEING FORMED IN OTHER URBAN AREAS. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR RECENTLY VISITED BUCARAMANGA AND FOUND THAT PRIVATE DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER THERE OPENED LAST YEAR, WAS NOW SERVING 20 RESIDENT PATIENTS AND 25 MORE OUT-PATIENTS. CENTER WAS FOUNDED AND LARGELY FINANCED BY GROUP OF ABOUT 75 INTERESTED BUCARAMANGA CITIZENS, LED BY LOCAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER AND PSYCHOLOGIST AT SANTANDER UNIVERSITY. WITH ASSISTS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS, THE DEPARTAMTNTAL GOVERNMENT, THE UNIVERSITY

AND PRIVATE DONORS,CENTER RECENTLY MOVED INTO NEW QUARTERS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY ACCOMMODATE SOME 50 RESIDENT PATIENTS. HAVING ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS COLOMBIAN PIONEERS IN DRUG REHABILITATION, VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS AT THE CENTER ARE NOW READY TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE THROUGH FORMAL AND INFORMAL TRAINING SEMINARS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING OTHER, SIMILAR PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. USG NARCOTICS SELF-HELP FUNDING COULD PAY SOME OF THE TRAVEL AND LODGING EXPENSES INVOLVED IN SUCH A TRAINING SEMINAR SERIES, THEREBY STIMULATING WIDER COLOMBIAN INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN SEEKING SOLUTION TO DRUG PROBLEM.

3. AS WE ENVISAGE IT, SELF-HELP FUND COULD BE MOST PROFITABLY ADMINISTERED BY AMBASSADOR AND MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE UNDER BASIC BILATERAL PROJECT AGREEMENT. AGREEMENT WOULD GOVERN USE OF FUND AND ESTABLISH A) 10,000 DOLLAR LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES B) PRINCIPAL THAT GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD MATCH THAT AMOUNT AND THAT LOCAL COMMUNITY WOULD MAKE EQUAL CONTRIBUTION IN CASH OR KIND; AND C) THAT SELF-HELP FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE SUPPLEMENT OTHER NARCOTICS PROGRAM FINANCING. USING THIS PROJECT AGREEMENT AS BASIS FOR ACTION, INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE FUNDED UNDER SIMPLE LETTER OF AGREEMENT AMONG MISSION, NATIONAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP.

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4. WE HAVEINFORMALLY DISCUSSED PROPOSAL OUTLINED ABOVE WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL AND HAVE HIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL MATCH US FUNDING FOR SMALL, LOCAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECTS. IN ORDER CONTINUE THESE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS, NEED LAINCC REACTIONS AND PRELIMINARY APPROVAL. DECON UPON RECEIPT. VAKY

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